

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 11 to 16, and 18 to 20 were pending in the present application when last examined. Applicant has canceled claims 14 to 20, and amended claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, and 11 to 13. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, and 11 to 13 remain pending.

103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 14, 19, and 20 under 36 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,477,222 (“Nystrom et al.”).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to depend from claim 5, which the Examiner indicated as allowable subject matter. Thus, amended claim 1 is now patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 5.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to clarify the claimed invention. Amended claim 6 now recites:

6. A method for purifying a fluid within a reflection optical switch system, comprising:

placing gettering structures within a chamber within the reflection optical switch system, wherein placing gettering structures includes placing structures separated by a gap of predetermined size, the structures being used to generate a voltage differential across the gap, the structures attracting impurities from the fluid when the structures are actuated;

actuating the structures; and

taking electrical measurements from the structures to monitor impurity levels of the system.

Claim 6 (emphasis added). Nystrom et al. does not disclose gettering structures separated by a gap for generating a voltage differential across the gap. Nystrom et al. only discloses heating a getter 30 with electrical resistance. Nystrom et al. also does not disclose actuating the gettering structures and taking electrical measurements from the gettering structures to monitor impurity levels of a reflection optical switch system. Again, Nystrom et al. only discloses heating getter 30 with electrical resistance. Accordingly, amended claim 6 is now patentable over Nystrom et al.

Applicant has amended claim 7 to depend from claim 11, which the Examiner indicated as allowable subject matter. Thus, amended claim 7 is now patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Like claim 6, Applicant has amended claim 12 to clarify the claimed invention. Amended claim 12 recites:

12. A reflection optical switch system, comprising:

a chamber that stores a fluid;

gettering structures within the chamber, wherein the gettering structures include structures separated by a gap of predetermined size, the structures being used to generate a voltage differential across the gap, the structures attracting impurities from the fluid when the structures are actuated; and

a measurement device coupled to the gettering structures for taking electrical measurements from the structures to monitor impurity levels of the system.

Claim 12 (emphasis added). As similarly discussed above with amended claim 6, Nystrom et al. does not disclose any gettering structures separated by a gap for generating voltage differential across the gap or any device that takes electrical measurements from the gettering structures to monitor impurity levels of a reflection optical switch system. Accordingly, amended claim 12 is now patentable over Nystrom et al.

Applicant has canceled claims 14, 19, and 20, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, and 18 are allowable if amended to independent claim form including all limitations of their base claims and intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, and 11 to independent claim form. Applicant has not included the limitation “optically accessible” in these claims since that is not a feature the Examiner found to be patentable over Nystrom et al.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claim 13.

Summary

In summary, claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 11 to 16, and 18 to 20 were pending in the present application. Applicant has canceled claims 14 to 20, and amended claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, and 11 to 13. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the claim rejections and allow claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, and 11 to 13. Should the Examiner have any questions, please call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480x206.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted prior to expiration of the set period of time by being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a) (4).

/David C Hsia/
Signature

April 24, 2007
Date

Respectfully submitted,

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